

REMARKS

Careful consideration has been given to the Official Action of October 17, 2003 and in particular to the restriction and election requirement therein.

Amendatory action has been taken in claim 25 which it is believed will have the effect of overcoming the restriction requirement.

The Examiner has called for election between inventions I, II and III and in response to the restriction requirement, the invention of Group II is elected with traverse.

Claim 25 has been amended to include the injection molded plastic material around the foil and stiffening element. Accordingly, the claim is now consistent with method claim 1 relating to the production of this product. Accordingly, there is no other method for obtaining the unit of claim 25 apart from claim 1. Thereby, the Examiner's support for the restriction requirement namely, that the claimed method can make other material different from the claimed product no longer is applicable. In other respects, the product as claimed cannot be made by another and materially different process from that of claim 1. Therefore, the distinctiveness between inventions I and II no longer can establish a restriction therebetween.

With regard to the election of species requirement, the embodiment 1 of Figs. 2-4 and 14-15 is elected. Claims 25-27 are generic as are claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 14 and 15 of Group I. Claims 27, 29, 30, 31, 33 and 34 read on the elected species as do method claims 3, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 20, 21, 22 and 23.

It is requested that examination of the application on its merits proceed on the basis of the election which has been made hereinabove taking account the traverse of the restriction requirement.

Respectfully submitted,

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JULIAN H. COHEN
C/O LADAS & PARRY
26 WEST 61ST STREET
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10023
REG. NO. 20302 - 212-708-1887